

REMARKS

I. Status of the claims

Claims 1, 3-9, 12, 13, and 15-27 are pending. Claims 1, 3-9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 19 have been indicated by the examiner as allowable. Applicants thank the examiner for allowing these claims. Claims 21, 23, and 26 have been amended to include the subject matter of original claims 10 and 11. Applicants respectfully request that the examiner enter this amendment, as the analysis relating to the patentability of these claims has substantially been performed when analyzing claims 1 and 13, which were amended in a similar fashion.

II. Rejection of claims 21-27 based on Saito

Claims 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over European patent Publication 917964 to Saito et al. ("Saito") for the reasons of record.

In this response, Applicants have amended independent claims 21, 23, and 26 to recite the presence of a cross-linked acrylic subcoat between the substrate and the coating. The examiner has indicated that a similar amendment, when introduced into claims 1 and 13, overcame the teachings of Saito. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 21, 23, and 26 based on Saito. Dependent claims 22, 24, 25, and 27 are dependent on amended claims 21 and 23. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the examiner also withdraw the rejection of claim 22, 24, 25, and 27 based on Saito.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 21-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and/or § 103(a).

III. Conclusion

Applicants request reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments and remarks set forth above. The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned counsel in order to resolve any remaining issues.

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Respectfully submitted,

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